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Boston University

News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

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STATE TO SUBSIDIZE 7 STUDENTS: The cost of educating seven first-year students who are Massachusetts residents will be subsidized by the Commonwealth to the tune of \$8,450 per student this year, under terms of a milestone contract between BUSM and the New England Board of Higher Education signed by Dean John I. Sandson last month.

Students selected for the subsidy will pay only \$2,000 tuition this year instead of \$5,300. In return, they will agree to serve in a medical capacity within the state for a period of six months for every one year of state support received. The agreement places no restriction on the nature of the medical service to be rendered, or the location, other than that it be in Massachusetts. The service period would begin after completion of residency training.

The contract not only makes possible a tuition reduction for participating students of \$3,300, but it will also allow the school to recover approximately the net cost of educating those students. The subsidy, when added to the \$2,000 tuition and federal capitation funds, equals nearly \$12,000, the estimated real cost of educating a medical student.

First-year students were notified of the program, and application forms were made available, in mid-November, and a Dec. 1 deadline for submitting applications was announced. Floyd Kemske, financial aid officer, said criteria for selection are financial need, individual merit, and certifiable Massachusetts residency. Kemske said that if, as he expects, more than seven applicants meet these criteria, the selection of the seven students will be made by lottery. Selection would probably be made by the end of the first week in December, Kemske said.

While terms of the contract commit the Commonwealth to only one year of participation in the program, it is expected that support for the seven students will continue for the next three academic years as well. Sandson said there is also a reasonable probability that seven additional first-year students may participate each year over the next three years, bringing the total in 1979-80 to 28.

The contract also requires that the School's entering class include at least 29 Massachusetts residents each year that the program is in effect. Sandson pointed out that this requirement poses no difficulty for BUSM, which had 47 Massachusetts residents in its entering class this year.

Sandson and Dean Lauro F. Cavazos of Tufts University School of Medicine worked together in negotiating with the New England Board of Higher Education, and Cavazos signed a contract with the Board that is virtually identical to BUSM's. Both agreements were made possible by an amendment to the funding provision of the regional health professional student program bill passed by the state legislature earlier this year. The amendment for the first time permits medical, dental, and

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veterinary schools to apply to the New England Board for contracts to admit Massachusetts residents whose education would be subsidized in return for certain pay-back provisions.

Sandson and Cavazos had worked with the legislature in drafting the amendment, designed to compensate in part for the fact that BUSM and Tufts are two of only seven medical schools in the country that receive no state support or special federal subsidy.

BUSM FACULTY RECEIVES \$100,000 CHALLENGE: The BUSM faculty has been challenged by the School's Alumni Association to raise \$100,000 for the Student Revolving Loan Fund by Dec. 31, 1976. The Association voted to match all faculty contributions made by that date "dollar for dollar" up to \$100,000, according to a letter from Association President Murray M. Freed, M.D., BUSM '52, to BUSM Dean John I. Sandson, M.D.

Seven faculty members serving as "Challenge!" campaign cochairpersons under Dean Sandson's direction met on Nov. 18. One order of business was the selection of 40 to 50 departmental representatives, to be called solicitors, who were expected to be named by the end of the month.

The "Challenge!" campaign is being conducted between Dec. 1 and Dec. 17, during which time Campaign Committee members will visit with faculty members. Donors may make contributions immediately or chose a short- or long-term payroll deduction plan.

Early donors have already contributed more than \$28,000 to the Fund, with support coming from staff and friends of BUSM as well as faculty members.

BENFIELD TO ASSUME NEW DUTIES JAN. 1: John R. Benfield, M.D., recently appointed chairman of the Division of Surgery at BUSM and surgeon-in-chief of University Hospital, will assume the two posts officially on Jan. 1, 1977. Benfield, who has also been appointed Utley Professor of Medicine, has been spending three days a month at BUMC since October to acquaint himself with the new position.

He is currently a professor of surgery at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine and chief of thoracic surgery at Harbor General Hospital, one of UCLA medical school's two principal teaching hospitals. He is highly respected as a teacher by UCLA students and house officers, having received several "best-teacher" awards.

The new surgery chief was welcomed to the Medical Center at a reception in his honor at Hiebert Lounge on Oct. 22.

LEVINSKY TO DESCRIBE EMF AT ANNUAL MEETING: Dr. Benfield (see story above) will be a featured speaker at the Hospital's 122nd Annual Meeting, to be held on Monday, Dec. 13, at the Museum of Science. Also speaking will be Norman G. Levinsky, M.D., chairman of the Division of Medicine and UH physician-in-chief, who will describe the Evans Medical Foundation, the not-for profit group-practice corporation formed by the full-time medical staff of the Division of Medicine to provide ambulatory care in the UH general medical and medical subspecialty clinics, as well as provide a new site for EMF private-patient care. The Foundation has been chartered exclusively for the benefit of UH and BUSM in carrying out patient care, research and teaching activities.

WILLIAMS NAMED DIRECTOR OF SEARS LAB: Lester F. Williams, Jr., M.D., director of the Division of Surgery at BCH and associate dean to the Department of Health and Hospitals, has been appointed director of the Sears Surgical Research Laboratory at BCH, thus transferring the directorship of this important research facility from Harvard to BU. The Sears Laboratory will continue to house surgical research activities as provided for under an endowment by the Tyler Fund.

FRANKL TO SUCCEED GOLDMAN AT SGD: Spencer N. Frankl, D.D.S., associate dean of the School of Graduate Dentistry, has been named dean designate and will become dean of the School upon the retirement of the current dean, Henry M. Goldman, D.M.D., on July 1, 1977.

The announcement of the appointment by Boston University President John R. Silber was based on the unanimous recommendation of the dean-designate search committee and on approval by the University trustees.

Dr. Frankl, who has been recognized for his ability as a dental educator, is a professor of pedodontics at SGD and was chairman of the Department of Pedodontics from 1964 until earlier this year, when he resigned from that post.

HONORS TO INGELFINGER, DAWBER, SMALL: Three important honors have been bestowed on BUSM faculty members in recent months. Franz J. Ingelfinger, M.D., editor of the New England Journal of Medicine and a clinical professor of medicine at BUSM, received the 1976 Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education. Ingelfinger accepted the award to a standing ovation at the annual meeting of the American Association of Medical Colleges in San Francisco last month.

Before becoming editor of the NEJM, Ingelfinger was at BUSM for 27 years, serving as chief of gastroenterology at the Evans, and was director of the School's medical services at BCH from 1961 to 1967.

Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., a professor of medicine, shared the Gairdner Foundation Award, and the \$10,000 prize that accompanied it, with William B. Kannel, M.D., of the U.S. Public Health Service. Dawber and Kannel were honored for their work in the Boston University/Framingham Heart Study. The award, which is made each year for outstanding contributions to medical science to winners chosen from more than 100 nominees who are among the world's top scientists, was presented Oct. 29 in Toronto.

The Eppinger Prize, an international award given every two years for outstanding contributions to the study of liver disease and liver physiology, went to Donald M. Small, M.D., a professor of medicine and biochemistry and chief of the UH biophysics section. Small made important discoveries that laid the foundation for the concept that gallstones could be dissolved as an alternative to gallbladder surgery. He accepted the prize, which he shared with two others, in Basel, Switzerland, during the week-long Fourth International Liver Conference.

WOTIZ, MELBY SHARE BREAST CANCER GRANT: A grant totalling nearly half a million dollars has been awarded to the School by the Public Health Service for research into the etiologic and prognostic factors in breast cancer. Herbert H. Wotiz, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, is principal investigator under the \$490,000 three-year grant, and James C. Melby, M.D., professor of medicine and physiology, also shares in the award. Wotiz's laboratory-based research will consider various

aspects of how breast cancer may be affected or even causatively related to aberrations in hormonal secretion patterns, and how hormonal factors can be used to predict the therapeutic course and general outcome of a case. Melby's clinical and laboratory research will focus on the role of the adrenal products in hormone-dependent cancer of the breast.

SCHOOL AWAITS HEW RESIDENCY REGS: Whether there will be any effects on BUSM's residency programs of the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1976, which became law in October, will depend on how the pertinent regulations are written by HEW's Bureau of Health Manpower, according to Dean Sandson. In order to qualify for capitation support in fiscal years 1978-80, medical schools are required by the Act to have 35 percent of their filled first-year residency training positions in primary-care specialties by 1978, 40 percent by 1979, and 50 percent by 1980.

Specific definitions, criteria, and methods on which the calculations will be based are expected to be elucidated by the regulations. Sandson pointed to the need for early clarification, since any necessary changes in plans affecting residency programs could not be made abruptly.

EMPLOYEE TURNOVER HITS RECORD LOW: An amazingly low average employee turnover rate of only 2.65 percent for fiscal 1976 is reported for the School of Medicine, the School of Graduate Dentistry and the Medical Center headquarters staff by Howard Buzzee, director of BU personnel at the Medical Center. The figure compares dramatically with past turnover rates here, which in 1971-72 averaged 37 percent, and with current rates on the Charles River campus, averaging approximately 50 percent; at Tufts New England Medical Center, about 40 percent, and at the Harvard Medical Area, 35 percent, Buzzee said.

The personnel director said he could not explain the small number of employees leaving their jobs, but suggested that employee loyalty might account in part for the low turnover figures. "We have very intense teams working on projects, who become extremely loyal to their areas," Buzzee said. "Many don't even want to be considered for promotions if it means leaving the work they are doing."

(The turnover rate does not include University Hospital employees, whose personnel matters are the responsibility of UH Employee Relations.)

PSYCHIATRY APPOINTS THREE: Three major appointments in the Division of Psychiatry at BUSM have been made recently. John Renner, M.D., has been named clinical director for the City of Boston Drug Program. Albert Feingold, M.D., has been appointed senior clinician in the combined University Hospital-Boston City Hospital Ambulatory Services and chief of Psychiatric Emergency Services at Boston City Hospital. Kenneth Kaplan, M.D., has been named chief of Consultation and Liaison Services at Boston City Hospital and will also assist with consultation and liaison work at University Hospital. The three new appointees are all also instructors in the BUSM division of psychiatry, graduate teaching program.

SANDSON SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON MEDICAL SCHOOL ROLE: Dean John I. Sandson, M.D., was scheduled to be among the speakers at a free public-education program on the role of medical schools Monday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Keefer Auditorium at the Hospital.

Other speakers on the program, which was sponsored by the Health Planning Council for Greater Boston, were to be Juan Albino, a fourth-year student at

Harvard Medical School and chairperson of the Boricua Health Organization; and Michael Yedidia, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and of community health, Tufts University School of Medicine.

The Health Planning Council for Greater Boston is the official Health Systems Agency for 65 area communities. Sandson is a member of the Council's Board of Directors.

SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO TRAIN BLACKS IN HYPERTENSION RESEARCH: A proposal for a program that would bring faculty and graduate students from Morehouse College in Atlanta to BUSM for training in the field of hypertension research was submitted to the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute by Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Institute, on Nov. 1. The five-year program would provide \$190,000 for summer research training for 10 junior faculty members, medical students, or Ph.D. candidates from Morehouse, an all-black college. During the school year, BUSM faculty members would travel to Morehouse to give lectures and consultations.

The college has a Medical Education Program which is in the process of being developed by its dean and director, Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., a former professor of medicine and associate professor of physiology at BUSM, into a full-fledged medical school. The transformation will make Morehouse the third black medical school in the country.

BUSM BOARD OF VISITORS BEING FORMED: A Board of Visitors for the School of Medicine is being formed, and will hold its first meeting next May, Dean Sandson reports. Persons from diverse backgrounds whose names were submitted to the Trustees and approved are currently being approached by Sandson to serve on the Board. The group's mission will be to visit and observe the School for one or two days each year, to discuss major issues of concern to the School, and to report to the Dean, the President and the Trustees on their findings. Each school of the University is to have its own Board of Visitors.

Sandson said he sees the Board of Visitors as affording an opportunity for involving a broader group of people in the affairs of the School.

GRAD STUDENT'S PAPER ON MALNUTRITION CREATES STIR: Ana G. Colmenares, a BUSM graduate student in anatomy, received widespread attention last month for a paper she presented to the Society for Neurosciences, in which she reported evidence that early malnutrition may only delay brain development, rather than do irreversible damage to the brain. In her work at BUSM, Colmenares reversed the effects of a near-starvation early diet on the brains of baby rats by giving them a normal diet beginning when they were 20 days old. The research provides additional evidence that malnutrition-induced retardation in children may also be reversible. Colmenares's results, presented at the Society's sixth annual meeting in Toronto, were reported widely by the press, both here and in the young researcher's home country of Venezuela.

GRANTS ABOVE \$100,000 JUMP TO 45: Sixteen more grants having a dollar value above \$100,000 annually were received by the School in fiscal '76 than in fiscal '75, for an increase of approximately \$2 million annually in grants in that category, Dean Sandson reports. A total of 45 grants of more than \$100,000 were received in fiscal '76, totalling \$9,330,961. In fiscal 1975, 29 such grants were received, for a total of \$7,395,981. The overall total of all faculty grants and contracts for fiscal 1976 was \$17,414,364, up \$1.7 million from the 1975 figure of \$15,672,333.

CANCER RESEARCH CENTER RECEIVES MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGNATION: The Cancer Research Center of Boston University and University Hospital was designated a multidisciplinary cancer research center by the National Cancer Institute in early October. Under the two-year grant, basic research and investigation programs will be extended to hospitals in southern and western Massachusetts, as well as to Boston University-affiliated institutions and other community hospitals. The Research Center was granted \$155,343 in core support for the first year and \$166,217 for the second. Sidney Cooperband, M.D., director of the Center, said the designation, which makes BU's one of 30 such designated centers in the U.S., "is, in effect, a badge of honor, recognizing our leadership in cancer education, treatment and research."

BRIEFLY NOTED: Carlton Smith became the new director of the Boston VA Hospital on Nov. 7, succeeding John Sheehan, who is now the director of the Lake City, Florida, VA Hospital. Smith last served as director of the Huntington, West Virginia, VA Hospital....Joel J. Alpert, M.D., chairman of the BUSM Department of Pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatrics at BCH, has developed with two others from Northeastern University a disk-based minicomputer system that permits a fast exchange of patient information between the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center and BCH. The Medical Records Communication (MARCO) system makes available medical record summaries on about 8,500 young patients to the doctors treating them at either the BCH walk-in clinic or Harvard Street, and has the capacity to house many more records....Floyd Kemske, financial aid officer for the School of Medicine, has assumed responsibility for financial aid matters at the School of Graduate Dentistry as well. In that capacity, he replaces Jon T. Kapala, D.M.D., director of predoctoral admissions and student affairs at SGD, who has recently also been appointed chairman of the Department of Pedodontics, and whose additional responsibilities in that post will preclude his continuing to handle financial aid....

Marcia Reedy joined the financial aid office as financial aid assistant recently, after working in the office of financial aid at Harvard University.... Medical and dental students who wish to apply for U.S. Navy scholarships should do so by Jan. 1, 1977. For more information call Chief Malcolm Ward at 223-6217.... The University's Gerontology Center has received a grant of \$195,000 from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the first year of a two-year health-care continuum project for the elderly. Designed to promote interaction between the Center and community resources, the project will be directed by Maura Jane Griffin, Center administrator, and the Center's co-executive directors, F. Marott Sinex, Ph.D., of BUSM, and Louis Lowy, Ph.D., of the School of Social Work....Frederick L. Stone, Ph.D., has been elected a trustee of Howard University in Washington, D.C., for a term of three years. At Howard, Stone serves on the trustee committees on academic affairs, budget and finance, health affairs, and development and university relations....BUMC's annual holiday party will be held Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge. All Medical Center students and employees are invited to come and enjoy roast beef, champagne punch, and musical entertainment....

A reception for members of the Alumni Association's Century Club will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hiebert Lounge on the 14th floor of BUSM. It will be the first such event for the more than 400 alumni who have become eligible for Century Club membership by contributing \$100 or more during a fiscal year to the Alumni Association's Annual Fund....First-year students celebrated both a favorite professor's birthday and the end of histology finals at noon on November 17 at the eighth annual "surprise" birthday party for William F. McNary, Jr., Ph.D. in Hiebert Lounge. Acting on behalf of the host first-year class, Coordinator of Students Eddie McCarthy made all the arrangements for the festive

affair, which featured wine punch and birthday cake....Robert L. Herrmann, Ph.D., former associate professor of biochemistry at BUSM, who left to become chairman of the biochemistry department of the planned new medical school at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., was honored recently by his friends and colleagues at BUSM at a reception in Hiebert Lounge. The party was sponsored jointly by the biochemistry department and the admissions committee, on which Herrmann served for many years....The Cardiovascular Institute in its annual report estimates its research funds from all sources for fiscal '76 totalled between \$5.5 and \$6 million. This represents 27 percent of the total grant and contract activity for the Medical School and University Hospital as of January, 1976, which was \$20.9 million....

George E. Gifford, Jr., M.D., an assistant professor of socio-medical sciences at BUSM, spoke on "Dr. James DeBerty Trudeau--Ornithologist, Artist, Soldier and Part-Time New Yorker," in a lecture sponsored by the Department of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University....A call for papers on research in the basic and clinical sciences has been received for the 1977 AMSA-UTMB National Student Research Forum, to be held in Galveston, Texas, May 4-7. The forum is open to undergraduate medical students, graduate students registered at medical schools, interns and residents. Applications and abstracts must be postmarked before Feb. 5, 1977, and manuscripts for the Excellence of Research Awards must be submitted before March 12. For more information, contact a SCOMSA representative....More than \$10,000 was contributed by BU employees at the Medical Center to the 1976-77 United Way campaign, Les Seserman, assistant personnel officer, reports. He said contributions this year exceeded last year's total of approximately \$8,900.